



SUPER TUESDAY VOTING GUIDE

MARCH 3, 2020

What's at stake for
South LA?



OF STEPPING UP FOR SOUTH LA

www.cocosouthla.org

Community Coalition Stepping Up for South LA for 30 Years!

For 30 years, Community Coalition has been led by community members who have stepped up to win key campaigns in education, justice reform, and land use policies. In 1990, a group of community activists huddled together in a living room in South LA. Gathered by Community Coalition's (CoCo's) founder and current Congressmember Karen Bass, the group was haunted by the raging health crisis that had enveloped their community. The daily impacts of the crack cocaine epidemic were devastating and the city's only response was to criminalize our community. It was particularly cruel given that in the previous decade, corporations had moved over 300 manufacturing plants out of South LA for cheaper labor costs overseas and the Reagan Administration had dismantled the social safety net, severely undercutting economic stability. The activists knew that criminalizing addiction would only make matters worse. They believed that South LA residents most impacted by the crisis should be included in creating real solutions for their community. It was from this vision that the idea of a community-driven organization was born.



8101 S. Vermont Avenue at the corner of 81st & Vermont

Community Coalition and our 3,000+ resident members have been stepping up for South LA ever since. We've stepped up to make sure menace business activities like those at liquor stores are curtailed and that owners become more responsive to the community's needs. We've stepped up to win college prep classes and critical funding (Prop 30 & the Student Equity Needs Index) for our schools. We've stepped up against racist policing by launching a 15-organization coalition that has forced LAPD's Metro Division to scale back the number of random racial profiling stops. We've stepped up to establish an Office of Racial Equity in the City of Los Angeles that will proactively address structural racism.

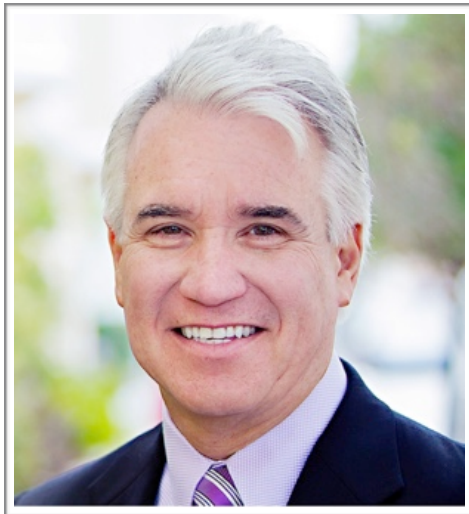
In 2020, we are asking you to "step up" with us. The implications of upcoming local elections are very important to South LA and our member residents. We encourage you to review this guide and join CoCo in transforming our community by manifesting our power outward and voting. 2020 is the year of stepping up, volunteering, spreading the word on key initiatives to your family and friends, and most importantly, of voting!

When are the elections?

- Tuesday, March 3rd! You can mail in your ballot sooner or start early voting in person on Saturday, February 22nd.
- In candidate races, if no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the top two candidates will have a runoff race to be decided on November 3, 2020.
- In 2020, Los Angeles County will transition from polling places to vote centers. This new model will allow voters to cast a ballot at any vote center location in the County over an 11-day period—February 22nd - March 3rd.

Find your Voting Center at LAVote.net!

Los Angeles District Attorney's Race



GEORGE GASCÓN



RACHEL ROSSI



JACKIE LACEY

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office is the largest prosecutorial office in the United States. With a staff of 1,000 attorneys, known as deputy district attorneys, the office represents the people of Los Angeles. The District Attorney is responsible for reviewing investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies and deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to file criminal charges. The office also interviews witnesses or victims, evaluates police reports, conducts trials, and recommends the sentencing of offenders. Additionally, the DA's office participates in grand jury proceedings and plans the prosecution of each case.

LA County has the highest incarceration rate in the world. That is why the LA District Attorney's race is one of the most important races in the United States, and most certainly in Los Angeles County. The office influences justice policy throughout CA and sets trends throughout the country. From policing issues to homelessness to mental health and public safety challenges, the DA sets the context for criminality around these issues. The DA plays a significant role in equitable prosecuting, which should include steering people away from incarceration and into mental health care and substance abuse treatment.

What you need to know about the District Attorney's Office:

- The D.A. has tremendous power in determining who's incarcerated via sentencing, bail, and charging, and is also able to enforce penalties in officer misconduct cases. Los Angeles is the jailing capital of the world and the police murder capital of the country.

Why does this race matter to South LA?

- South LA has one of the highest houselessness rates and decisions to criminalize & prosecute this falls on the D.A.
- The D.A. could discipline the 20+ officers from LAPD's Metro Division who are currently under investigation for listing innocent people as gang members.
- The D.A. has major power in implementing alternatives to incarceration like mental health care and substance abuse treatment.

Who is running?

- Jackie Lacey, the incumbent, who has been in office since 2012.
- George Gascon, the former D.A. of San Francisco.
- Rachel Rossi, a former state and federal public defender in LA County from 2011-2017.

VOTE YES on R

VOTE “YES” on Measure R to Reform LA Jails

What you need to know about about Measure R:

Measure R, which addresses concerns regarding the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission, jail populations, and incarceration rates, is on the ballot for voters in Los Angeles County, California, on March 3, 2020. A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the Los Angeles County Code to authorize the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to develop a *Comprehensive Public Safety Reinvestment Plan*, which would reduce jail populations and mass incarceration. It would also grant the commission the power to subpoena people when investigating complaints. A **no** vote is a vote against amending the Los Angeles County Code to allow the commission subpoena power to investigate complaints.

Why will Measure R do?

- 1) Invest in rehabilitation and mental health treatment.
- 2) Reduce the jail population of people who suffer from mental illness in LA County.
- 3) Root out corruption and prevent abuses by the Sheriff's Department, by adding oversight.

Why does does Measure R matter to South LA?

- Our communities need care for those with mental health illnesses and substance abuse addictions, not cages. Measure R is a key step toward creating that reality.

Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

What you need to know about the Board of Supervisors:

- There are 5 Board of Supervisors representing a constituency of about two million people each in the unincorporated areas of LA County.
- Together, they control a \$30-plus-billion budget that funds the Sheriff's Department, jails, children and family services, and public health programs.

Why does this race matter to South LA?

- These programs all touch South LA, especially reforms to the criminal justice system in our criminalized communities.

Who is running?

- **Herb Wesson**: Former L.A. City Council President, 10th District
- **Holly Mitchell**: Current CA State Senator, 30th District
- **Jan Perry**: Former Councilmember, 9th District



HOLLY MITCHELL



HERB WESSON



JAN PERRY

City Council 8th & 10th Districts' Races

What you need to know about the City Council:

There are 15 City Council seats representing different areas of the City of Los Angeles. Councilmembers serve four-year terms.

- **District 8**—Baldwin Hills, Chesterfield Square, Crenshaw, Leimert Park, Jefferson Park, and West Adams
- **District 10**—Arlington Heights, Koreatown, Mid-City, Olympic Park, Palms, South Robertson, West Adams, West Pico and Wilshire Center

Why does this race matter to South LA?

- Councilmembers have tremendous influence over land use authority, impacting affordable housing, job creation, parks places to eat, drink, and shop.
- They're responsible for carrying out critical local services like street cleaning, road repairs, and trash collection.
- They're key mediators between the LAPD and residents who are experiencing officer misconduct.

Who is running?

District 8

- Incumbent **Marqueece Harris-Dawson**

District 10

- **Channing Martinez**—A community and labor organizer
- **Mark Ridley-Thomas**—Current Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District
- **Melvin Snell**—A businessman
- **Aura Vasquez**—An environmental justice organizer and former Commissioner of the LA Department of Water and Power
- **Grace Yoo**—An attorney



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS



CHANNING MARTINEZ



AURA VASQUEZ



GRACE YOO



MELVIN SNELL

“Every voice is equally powerful. Don’t underestimate your vote. Voting is the great equalizer.”

-- Maya Angelou

LAUSD Board Members' Race, Districts 1 & 7

What you need to know about the LAUSD Board:

- There are seven members of the Los Angeles Unified School Board (LAUSD), representing the second largest public school system in the country.
- Districts 1 (Dorsey, Crenshaw, Manual Arts, and Washington Prep High School) and District 7 (Fremont High School) educate the largest concentration of Black & Brown youth in LAUSD.

Why does this race matter to South LA?

- The representatives from these districts have decision making power and influence over the equitable distribution of resources to schools in South LA and other communities of color via the Student Equity Needs Index, which directs funding to high need schools.

Who is running?

District 1

- **George McKenna (incumbent):** First elected to the School Board in 2014, he is a retired LAUSD principal, teacher and consultant.

District 7

- **Lydia Gutiérrez:** Math teacher; previous candidate for this seat and for state schools superintendent.
- **Mike Lansing:** Leads the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor. He previously held this LAUSD board seat between 1999 and 2007.
- **Silke Bradford:** Teacher and school administrator for Oakland Unified, LAUSD and now Compton Unified.
- **Patricia Castellanos:** Deputy director of L.A. Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) and co-founder of Reclaim Our Schools Los Angeles.
- **Tanya Ortiz Franklin:** Lawyer, former teacher, currently works for the Partnership for L.A. Schools, which operates several high-need LAUSD schools.

In 2020, Los Angeles County residents will have a new way to vote. The County is moving away from polling places and creating vote centers. Vote centers will allow voters to cast a ballot at any vote center location in the County over an 11-day period.

Angelenos can vote in-person from
February 22 - March 3, 2020.

Go to www.lavote.net to find your Vote Center.



GEORGE MCKENNA



LYDIA GUTIÉRREZ



MIKE LANSING



SIKE BRADFORD



PATRICIA CASTELLANOS



TANYA FRANKLIN

Make Sure You And Your Community Are Counted

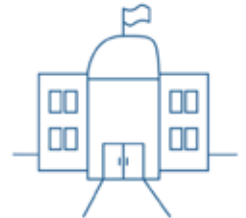
How You, Your Community, and Campus Benefit from Census Data

The Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy. The Census Bureau conducts the decennial Census, the American Community Survey, the economic Census, and many other surveys. Federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, academia, and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race, and other factors.



College students benefit from Federal student loans, legislation, campus funding, campus improvements, and health and social services.

Local government officials use the Census to ensure public safety, provide health care, and improve schools and hospital facilities.



Your data are confidential. Federal law protects your Census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.



Businesses use Census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores that create jobs and serve local communities.

736,912
college students
in LA
County!

Attending universities, colleges,
and community colleges

Los Angeles County needs your help because you care about:

- Federal student loans
- Federal research grants
- Campus funding
- Campus improvements, including labs, buildings, and classrooms
- Health and social services
- Federal legislation
- Students' future careers – many professionals are heavily dependent on Federal funding (e.g., medicine, social work, nursing, science, research, or public health)

16th
largest
US city

Los Angeles County's
college student population is
bigger than Seattle!

The Census is also important for:

Redistricting. After each Census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.



Fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the Census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



Billions of dollars at stake. Census data determine the allocation of billions of dollars to support your state, county, and community's vital programs.



Census 2020

Everyone Counts! Make Sure Everyone is Counted

What you need to know about the Census:

The Census happens only once every 10 years in order to count everyone living in the United States. It is important to count every person living in your home—including children, grandchildren, friends who are staying with you, etc.—to make sure our communities across the nation are accurately funded and represented for the next decade.

It is simple to fill out. Ten simple questions, and a 10-minute survey. That's it. It is safe, confidential and you can complete it online, by phone, by mail, or in-person. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits. CoCo will have a Census kiosk and staff to help you fill out the Census.

Why does the Census matter to South LA?

Funding

Participating in the Census grants funding for our communities. Information collected in the census helps to distribute \$675 billion in federal funding each year for first responders, emergency services, school meals, Medicare and Medicaid, libraries, community parks and recreational centers.

Political Representation

When you fill out the Census, you help make sure we have the accurate amount of elected officials to represent our districts in Congress.

When should you complete the Census?

Mailers will be sent out in March! **Census Day is Wednesday, April 1st**—make sure every person living in your home is counted.



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